



Parent News

Supporting Student Success

Monday, Sept. 6

*NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
Holiday*

Friday, Sept. 17

*NO SCHOOL, Professional
Development day for staff*

Wednesday, Sept. 29

*Chancellor's Community
Forum, 6:30-8 p.m.,
Cleveland Elementary
School, 1825 8th St. NW*

Have you turned in all your enrollment forms?

Log on to www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/firstday to find all the forms you need to enroll your child. Parents need to turn in ALL forms, including immunization and residency verification, as soon as possible. These forms must be turned in for your child to participate in programs, such as athletics.

Get your student ready for college! Take the PSAT for free.

DCPS is dedicated to ensuring that all students are college-ready. Participating in the PSAT is an important step on that path. DCPS will administer the PSAT to all ninth-10th-and-11th-grade students at each high school on Wednesday, Oct. 13. This important test qualifies students for scholarships, provides important practice for later college admissions tests and enables the College Board to connect students with colleges and universities.

DCPS covers all of the costs for students to take the PSAT and has also purchased Test Gear, online PSAT and SAT preparation that students may access through their Individual Graduation Portfolios.

Your student's sexual health is important.

At each high school, there is at least one male and one female staff member who are Wrap MC's- or Certified Condom Distributors. Also, DCPS offers free school-based sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment to all high school students. Parents may opt their children out of the screening if they choose.

Learn your rights as a parent!

Did you know parents have access to a variety of information about the school system and your child's teachers? Check your mailbox in the coming days for the Parent Right To Know guide, a short booklet that provides parents all the information they need to know about DCPS. The booklet will give you information on how to sign up for public school choice, get free tutoring, find out more about the qualifications of your child's teacher and much more! Feel free to contact us for more information at nclb.questions@dc.gov or 202.442.5149.



*Student from Winston Education Campus
Photo by Meaghan Gay*

**Coming soon:
text messaging!
Stay tuned for more
information about how you
will be able to receive text
messages from your
principal and other
DCPS leaders about critical
information.**



*Students at Key Elementary
Photo by Katie Test*

**See and hear the
voices of our
students, teachers,
parents and staff—
check out our
YouTube page at
[www.youtube.com/
dcpublicschools](http://www.youtube.com/dcpublicschools)**



*Students from Columbia Heights EC
Photo by Michael DeAngelis*



*Students from Brent ES
Photo by Bel Perez-Gabliondo*

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*Students from Eliot-Hine MS
Photo by Bel Perez-Gabliondo*

Registration for the DCPS Afterschool Program is happening now.

The afterschool program provides academic, wellness and enrichment opportunities for DCPS students of all ages. Students attending three hours of afterschool programming each day gain the equivalent of nearly four months of extra learning time. Younger students can benefit from academic support, self-esteem-building activities and structured wellness programs. High school students can take credit recovery classes, receive tutoring, and participate in sports, clubs and college and career readiness programs. To obtain information about enrolling your child, please contact your school, call 202.442.5002, or visit the DCPS website at www.dcps.dc.gov (click "Beyond the Classroom," and select "Afterschool Programs").

Learn About: The Individualized Education Program process

A student's IEP describes the amount of time that the child will spend receiving special education services, any related services the child will receive, and his or her academic and behavior goals. The IEP is a learning plan, created for children between ages 3 and 22. If you are concerned about the educational development of your child, the first step is to contact the Special Education Coordinator (SEC) at your child's school ask for a special education evaluation. This is known as a "referral" and results in the district evaluating your child to determine if he or she needs special education services. You don't have to do this in writing — you can just request it of your SEC, and they will then create a written referral and start the evaluation process. Every child is unique, and the special education process must be flexible enough to meet a wide variety of needs. Regular communication with your child's teachers is key to your child's educational progress.

Lost? Having trouble navigating the system?

The Critical Response Team is here to help you.

As your student begins the school year, you may have questions about a variety of topics. The Critical Response Team (CRT) is here to help. The CRT specializes in helping parents and students navigate the many resources DCPS has available, and reports directly to Chancellor Rhee with your feedback. You may reach the Critical Response Team at **202.478.5738**. The phone line is staffed every weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Remember, your first and best source of information is the school staff. Please do not hesitate to contact the principal, nurse, or other school-based staff for help. However, if you still have questions after talking to the school staff, please contact the CRT. The CRT is happy to address your questions or help you find the right answers.

Your school's Back to School Nights and teacher conferences.

Add your school's Back to School Night and teacher conference days to your family calendar. Be sure you have the contact information for your child's teachers, administrators and support staff. Stay in close touch with them throughout the year about your child's progress, and seek their advice on how you can help at home to build your child's skills. Teachers and parents make a great team!